



Garry Kilworth

Garry Kilworth began writing seriously five years ago when he won the Gollancz/Sunday Times competition for the best collection of unpublished SF stories. He made a notable debut with *In Solitary*. He is 36, married to a schoolteacher and has two children. He is an executive with an international telecommunications company.

● Although the first words were not on paper until June 1976, I started making mental notes for *The Night of Kadar* in 1968 while travelling around the Arabian peninsula. I had already spent some years of my childhood in Southern Yemen and even at fourteen years it struck me how Earth-oriented was the Islamic religion. Thus the seeds of the novel were planted.

Essentially I see myself as a pastoral SF writer, if there is such a thing, and I believe in travel as a way of life. (If one wishes to inherit nomadic genes, having a Romany gypsy grandfather is a great help.) Since leaving school my work has carried me to Europe, Asia, Africa and America, often for periods of up to three years. In tune with the novel I once spent a whole year on a coral island a half square mile and experienced that claustrophobic condition 'island madness'.

The hero, Othman, is a Bedu with a soul too large to be confined by a small island. The Bedu have always been concerned with privation, which I believe pares away the civilized layers of Man and leaves the essential core. It is a return to this essence, through hardship, mystery and adventure, that forms the underlying theme of the novel.

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NEWS BULLETIN

● **MAGAZINES:** *GALAXY* The new editor is Hank Stine, 33, a long time fan and writer. Stine fills the vacancy left by John J Pierce, who joined *Galaxy* in 1977 when Jim Baen moved to Ace Books. Pierce resigned in June.

DESTINIES Described as being the Rolls Royce of sf, *Destinies* is a new magazine from Ace Books with Jim Baen as editor. 'A wholly new concept... the very first paperback science fiction magazine', say Ace; have they forgotten about the old *New Worlds*? No news about when or if *Destinies* will be available in the UK. **PULSAR:** investigations underway into current rumour that Playboy plan competition for *Omni* by the name of *Pulsar*. Watch this space.

● **TV:** Several US TV series or pilots for series have been bought by ITV. **GALACTICA:** very expensive and very classy (special effects by John Dykstra, who was responsible for *Star Wars* effects). The pilot three-hour episode will probably be shown in the cinema and the following two 2-hour episodes and the 1-hour series on TV. Sounds like a mixture of *Star Trek*, *Space 1999* and *Wagon Train*: treacherous aliens, the Cyclons, annihilate almost all of humankind. Only the *Galactica* — a huge spacecraft — survives. It must collect the remnants of humanity, elude the Cyclons, and search for food, fuel and a new home. ITV have also bought **PROJECT U.F.O.** Enormously successful in America, it follows the adventures of two Air Force investigators for Project Blue Book as they delve into many and varied ufo sightings. Keep an eye open for **CLONE MASTER**, the pilot for a hoped-for series about a biochemist who makes thirteen clones of himself. The series, if it is made, will concentrate on the adventures of a different clone each episode. There was a time when every other show was about cops and robbers, or so it seemed. The future seems to consist of comic book superheroes: we've had *Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonderwoman* and *the Hulk*, now get ready for *Spiderman* and *Dr Strange*. *Spiderman*, presently doing the cinema rounds, won through the ratings battle to a second season in America and should be shown over here soon. *Dr Strange*, Marvel Comics master of the mystic arts, has also been bought by ITV. It stars Peter Hooten, Jessica Walters and John Mills.

● CONVENTION UPDATES

YORCON. 30th British Easter SF Convention. GOH Richard Cowper. Dragonara Hotel, Leeds, April 13-16. Write: c/o Alan Dorey, 20 Hermitage Woods Crescent, St Johns, Woking, Surrey GU24 1UE

SEACON '79. 37th World SF Convention. GOH Fritz Leiber, Brian Aldiss, Harry Bell. Toastmaster Bob Shaw. Metropole Hotel, Brighton, Aug 23-27. Write: Seacon, 14 Henrietta Street, London WC2E 8QJ

Novacon 8 was held in Birmingham on November 3 to 5. Guest of Honour was Anne McCaffrey. A report on the convention will be in SF Book Club News No 3.

If you have any comments to make about sf or the SFBC please write to me: Paul G Begg, Science Fiction Book Club, Brunel House, Forde Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 2DW. I will try and include the most interesting letters.

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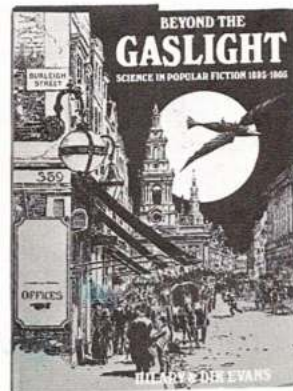
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